

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has set forth an election of species requirement with regard to the present application. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

SPECIES	CLAIMS	SUBJECT MATTER
I	3 and 13	Filter Assembly/Method of Making wherein adhesive-applied parts constitute a continuous loop pattern
II	4 and 14	Filter Assembly/Method of Making wherein adhesive-applied parts constitute a meandering pattern
III	5, 8, 15 and 18	Filter Assembly/Method of Making wherein adhesive-applied parts constitute a bar pattern

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-12 16, 17, 19 and 20 are generic to the three species identified above.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, Applicants have elected the species of **Group I** for initial examination. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are readable on the elected species. The Examiner is respectfully requested to act on the elected claims.

The provisions of 37 CFR 1.146 state that a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. The present application contains three (3) species. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's election of species requirement is improper in view of the fact that a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present application. If the Examiner determines that any of the generic claims are allowable, then all of the claims of the present application should be allowable.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 have been initially elected. If the Examiner does persist in his election of species requirement, Applicants reserve the right to proceed with the filing of a divisional application directed to non-elected species at a later date if they so desires.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

The Examiner has not acknowledged the Priority Document filed on November 4, 2003. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge Applicants' claim for foreign priority in his next Office Action.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the Examiner has any objections to the Formal Drawings he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken. No further action is believed to be necessary at this time unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Examiner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

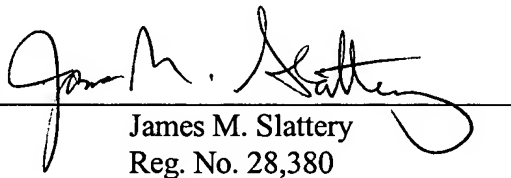
The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 4, 2003. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 should be sent to the undersigned at the earliest convenience of the Examiner.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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